

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

NEW STRATEGY



President Barack Obama walks on the South Lawn after he returns to the White House in Washington following a trip to California, Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Read more on Page A4

SPORTS NEWS

IT'S TWO-TWO



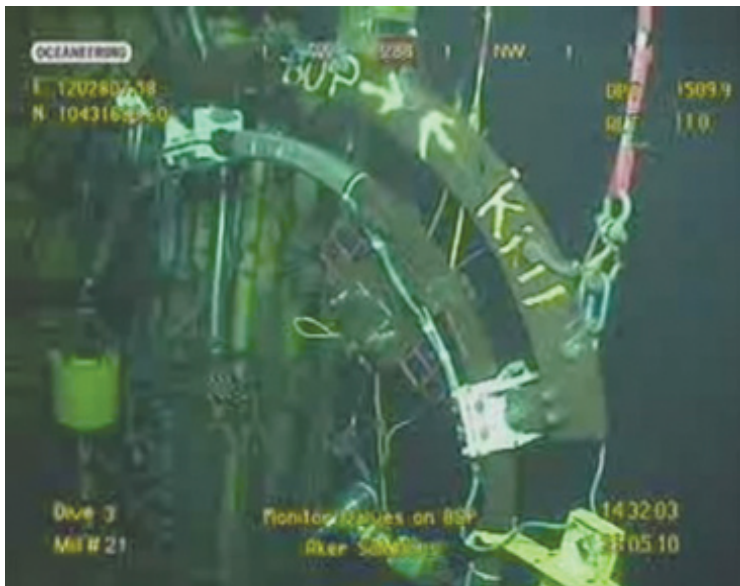
Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant reacts to being called for a foul against Phoenix Suns guard Jason Richardson during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Tuesday, May 25, 2010, in Phoenix. Phoenix won 115-106, tying the series.

Read more on Page A12

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This image made from video released by British Petroleum (BP PLC) shows equipment being used to try and plug a gushing oil well in the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 during a maneuver known as a "top kill" that has never before been tried 5,000 feet underwater. The oil giant's chief executive earlier gave the procedure a 60 to 70 percent chance of working, and President Barack Obama cautioned Wednesday there were "no guarantees."

Associated Press

BP: Effort to plug Gulf oil spill going as planned

Read Page Next Page

Clinton: World must act on S. Korean ship sinking

HYUNG-JIN KIM
MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday the world must respond to the "unacceptable provocation" represented by the sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on Pyongyang, as the regime unleashed more blistering rhetoric against Seoul and Washington. Tension on the divided Korean peninsula has risen dramatically since international investigators said

last week that a torpedo fired by a North Korean submarine tore apart and sank the South Korean warship Cheonan on March 26, killing 46 sailors. Relations are at their lowest point in a decade, when South Korea began reaching out to the North with unconditional aid as part of reconciliation efforts. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has taken a harder line against Pyongyang since taking office in 2008 amid delays in the North's promised denuclearization and has suspended aid.

Continued on Page 8

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Space shuttle Atlantis lands for final time



The space shuttle Atlantis deploys her braking parachute during landing on Kennedy Space Center's runway 33 Wednesday, May 26, 2010, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis returned from orbit for the last time Wednesday, closing out a 25-year flying career and safely bringing back six astronauts who boosted the International Space Station's power and size. The smooth landing was indicative of the entire 12-day mission — NASA's third-to-last shuttle flight.

"That was pretty sweet," Mission Control radioed after Atlantis glided through a clear morning sky and rolled down the runway.

Continued on Page 3



South Korean soldiers man a guard post in Gangneung, east of Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 26, 2010. North Korea threatened Wednesday to block all cross-border traffic and blow up any South Korean loudspeakers blasting propaganda northward after a six-year hiatus, as tensions soared over the sinking of a South Korean warship.

Associated Press

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BP: Effort to plug Gulf oil spill going as planned



BP PLC CEO Tony Hayward listens to a reporter's question during a press conference on Fouchon Beach in Port Fourchon, La., Monday, May 24, 2010.

Associated Press

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press Writer

COVINGTON, Louisiana (AP) — BP started pumping heavy mud into a leaking Gulf of Mexico well Wednesday and said everything was going as planned in the company's boldest attempt yet to plug the gusher that has spewed

millions of gallons of oil over the last five weeks.

BP hoped the mud could overpower the steady stream of oil, but chief executive Tony Hayward said it would be at least 24 hours before officials know whether the attempt has been successful. The company wants to eventually inject

cement into the well to seal it. "I'm sure many of you have been watching the plume," Hayward said from Houston. "All I can say is it is unlikely to give us any real indication of what is going on. Either increases or decreases are not an indicator of either success or failure at this time."

The stakes are high. Fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, politicians and residents along the coast are fed up with BP's so far ineffective attempts to stop the oil leak that sprang after an offshore drilling rig exploded April 20. Eleven workers were killed, and by the most conservative estimate, 7 million gallons of crude have spilled into the Gulf, fouling Louisiana's marshes and coating birds and other wildlife.

"We're doing everything we can to bring it to closure, and actually we're executing this top kill job as efficiently and effectively as we can,"

BP Chief Operating Officer Suttles said Wednesday night. The top kill has worked above ground but has never before been tried 5,000 feet beneath the sea. Company officials peg its chance of success at 60 to 70 percent.

President Barack Obama said "there's no guarantees" it will work.

The president planned a trip to Louisiana on Friday.

"We're going to bring every resource necessary to put a stop to this thing," he said. Meanwhile, dozens of witness statements obtained by The Associated Press show that a combination of equipment failure and a deference to the chain of command impeded the system that should have stopped the gusher before it became an environmental disaster.

A live video stream Wednesday showed pictures of the blowout preventer, as well as the oil gushing out. At other times,

the feed showed mud spewing out, but BP said this was not cause for alarm.

A weak spot in the blowout preventer could blow under the pressure, causing a brand new leak.

Gene Beck, a petroleum engineering professor at Texas A&M University, said the endeavor would likely fail quickly if the mud could not overcome the pressure of the oil.

"The longer it goes, maybe the better news that is," he said.

Frustration with BP and the federal government has only grown since efforts to stop the leak have failed.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser, both outspoken critics, led a boat tour around the oil-fouled delta near the mouth of the Mississippi River. Some 100 miles of Louisiana coastline had been hit by the oil, the Coast Guard said. □



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ATLANTIS

Continued from Front Page

"That was a suiting end to an incredible mission."

Commander Kenneth Ham said he was ready to turn the shuttle over to the ground teams and get Atlantis "back in the barn for a little bit."

Mission Control had monitored storms throughout the early hours, but they dissipated by daybreak and remained at a safe distance. The cockpit erupted in cheers when Mission Control finally radioed up the "go" to come home.

About 1,200 guests lined the Kennedy Space Center runway to welcome Atlantis and its crew home, the maximum allowable crowd. The lead flight directors for the space station construction mission came in from Houston for the event. Space center employees wore white ribbons with the name "Atlantis" and its picture embossed in gold.

"The legacy of Atlantis now in the history books," Mission Control's commentator announced at touchdown.

This was Atlantis' 32nd journey; the shuttle logged its 120-millionth mile shortly after midnight. Only two shuttle missions remain, by NASA's two other spaceships. NASA is pushing for one more flight for Atlantis, which would need White House approval. The astronauts accomplished everything they set out to do after rocketing

into orbit May 14.

Atlantis — the fourth in NASA's shuttle series — is ending its run after having spent an accumulated 294 days in orbit and circled Earth 4,648 times. It's carried 189 astronauts and visited the International Space Station 11 times. It also flew seven times to Russia's old Mir station and once to the Hubble Space Telescope.

The shuttle added another 4.8 million miles this time around.

As a tribute to their ship, the astronauts flew a small U.S. flag that accompanied Atlantis into orbit on its maiden voyage in 1985, as well as a couple tool bins full of shuttle mementos.

Sir Isaac Newton even got in on the act, albeit posthumously. British-born astronaut Piers Sellers flew a wood chip from the actual tree from which an apple fell nearly 350 years ago and inspired Newton to discover the law of gravity.

Once Atlantis is back in the hangar, it will be prepped for a potential rescue mission for what's currently slated to be the final shuttle flight by Endeavour. Endeavour's trip is targeted for November, but NASA managers will reassess the date in another week or two.

The only other flight on the books is a supply run to the space station by Discovery in September. That date also is being evaluated.



STS-132 crew members, from left, Ken Ham, Dominic Antonelli, Garrett Reisman, Michael Good, Stephen Bowen, and Piers Sellers take part in a crew news conference Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Atlantis and her crew of six astronauts wrapped up a 12 day mission earlier in the day.

Associated Press

Both of those missions have payload issues that are threatening to cause delays.

NASA would like to fly Atlantis again in June 2011, provided no rescue mission is needed for Endeavour's flight. It would be one last supply run with a four-person crew that could camp out at the space station in the event of serious shuttle damage and return to Earth in Russian Soyuz capsules.

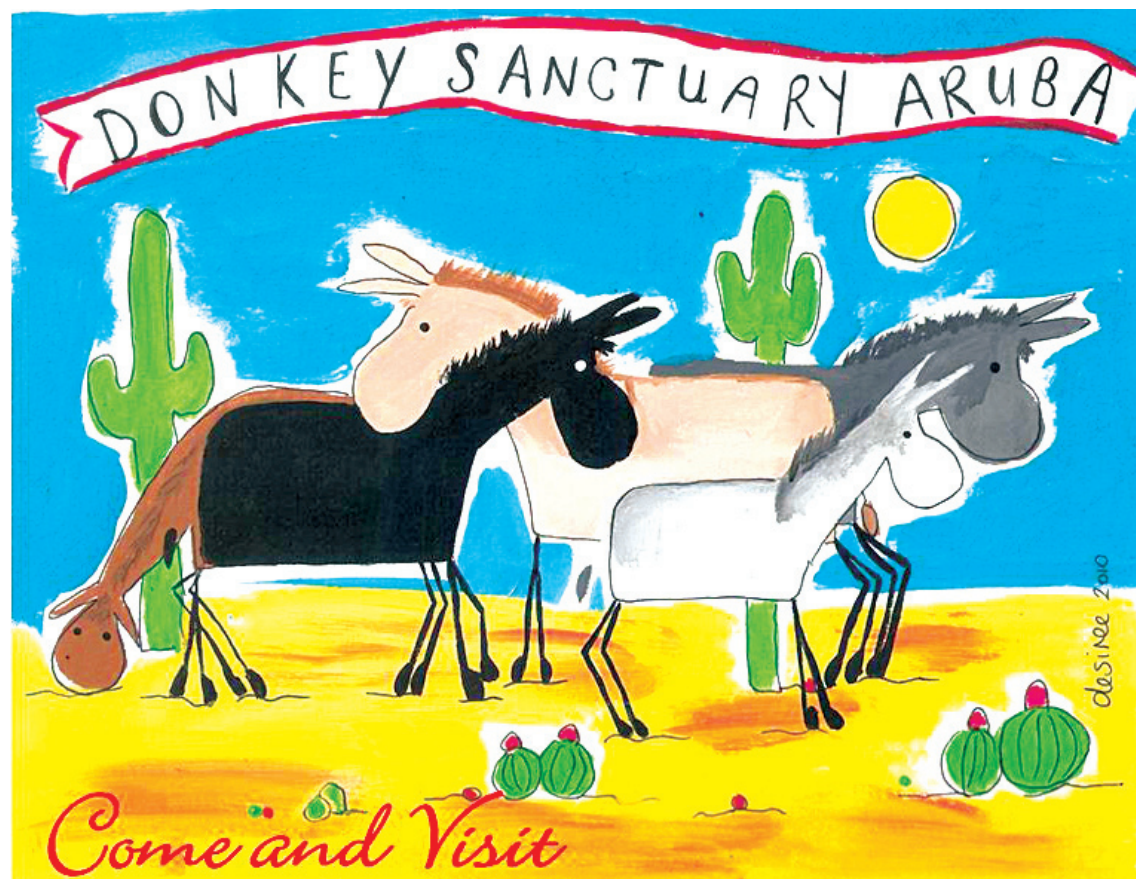
Atlantis' ultimate destination will be a museum somewhere in America.

The space station — 98 percent complete now in terms of living space — will lose half of its six-person crew in another

week. Three astronauts will return to Kazakhstan aboard a Soyuz on June 2, and their replacements will fly up two weeks after that.

Americans will keep hitching rides on Russian rockets until

U.S. private enterprise is able to take over. That's one of the goals set forth earlier this year by President Barack Obama, who wants astronauts aiming for asteroids and Mars in the next few decades. □



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Obama's new security strategy breaks with Bush

ANNE GEARAN
ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is breaking with the go-it-alone Bush years in a new strategy for keeping the U.S. safe, counting more on allies to tackle terrorism and other global problems. It is an approach that already has proved tricky in practice.

The administration's National Security Strategy, a summary of which was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, also for the first time adds homegrown terrorism to the familiar menu of threats facing the nation — international terror, nuclear weapons proliferation, economic instability, global climate change and an erosion of democratic freedoms abroad.

From mustering NATO forces for Afghanistan to corralling support to pressure North Korea to give up its illicit nuclear weapons program, the U.S. has sometimes struggled in leaning on friends and allies in recent years. Still, the new strategy breaks with some previous administrations in putting heavy emphasis on the value of global cooperation, developing wider security partnerships and helping other nations provide for their own defense.

In his first 16 months in office, Obama has pursued a strategy of gentle persuasion, sometimes summarized as “engagement.”



President Barack Obama returns a salute as he steps off Marine One helicopter on the South Lawn after he returns to the White House in Washington following a trip to California, Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Associated Press

His administration has attended more closely to ties with Europe, sought a “reset” of relations with Russia, pushed harder to restart stalled Mideast peace talks and consulted widely on a roadmap for defeating the Taliban in Afghanistan. Obama's critics, however, assert that his policies have largely failed, given the continued defiance of Iran and North Korea on nuclear development, the stalemate in Afghanistan and rising worries about terrorist attacks at home.

Presidents use their national security strategy to set broad goals and priorities for keeping Americans safe. But the document isn't

an academic exercise: it has far-reaching effects on spending, defense policies and security strategy.

For example, President George W. Bush's 2002 strategy document spelled out a doctrine of pre-emptive war.

“We must be prepared to stop rogue states and their terrorist clients before they are able to threaten or use weapons of mass destruction against the United States and our allies and friends,” the Bush strategy said, with Iraq clearly in mind. The following year U.S. forces invaded, launching a conflict that has lasted far longer and cost far more money and lives than Bush intended.

Obama's new strategy is expected to repudiate, at least implicitly, that doctrine.

Bush, too, valued alliances. But some of his action, especially the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, ripped holes in the fabric of U.S. foreign relations, particularly in Europe.

Bush pursued what he called “a distinctly American internationalism.” One of the central pillars of his

national security strategy — spelled out in 2002 and repeated in 2006 — was a call to “strengthen alliances to defeat global terrorism” and to “work with others to defuse regional conflict.” But because of Iraq, the indefinite detention of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay and other actions, the Bush administration estranged some traditional allies — a situation exploited by U.S. foes.

John Brennan, the White House's top counterterrorism adviser, said Wednesday that the administration would add combating homegrown terrorism to its strategy.

Terror attacks like the shooting at a Texas military base last year, which killed 13 bystanders, as well as the failed bombing in New York's Times Square on May 1, have thrust homegrown terrorism into the spotlight, and U.S. citizens like Najibullah Zazi and David Headley have been charged with plotting terror attacks. Obama's revision would be the first time that homegrown terror threats were a pillar of the document. President Bill Clinton did not mention

domestic terrorism in his 1998 revision, even though the Oklahoma City bombing had occurred just three years earlier. Bush made only passing reference to homegrown terrorism in his final national security strategy, published in 2006. Brennan, speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, did not disclose specifics of Obama's strategy paper. But he hinted at its philosophical underpinnings. Denouncing al-Qaida as “a small band of cowards,” Brennan said the U.S. would defeat the militant network while maintaining “our values as a nation.”


Obama's document enshrines principles and policies that he has advocated since his election campaign. It will be the foundation for a National Military Strategy document, due soon.

The strategy makes it clear the United States intends to maintain the world's most powerful military, with unsurpassed reach and capability despite being stretched by two wars and other challenges.

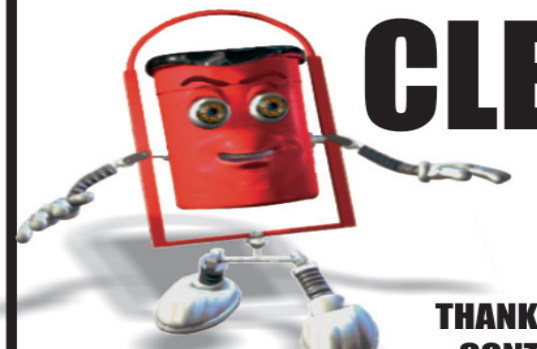
Obama touched on many of the themes in the new strategy during a commencement address Saturday to graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy.

The U.S. must shape a world order relying as much on the persuasiveness of its diplomacy as the might of its military, he said. All hands are required to solve the world's newest threats: terrorism, the spread of nuclear weapons, climate change and feeding and caring for a growing world population, he added.

Obama said the men and women who wear America's uniform cannot bear that responsibility by themselves. “The rest of us must do our part,” he said. “The burdens of this century cannot fall on our soldiers alone. It also cannot fall on American shoulders alone.” □



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U.S. state argues against federal gay marriage ban

STEVE LEBLANC

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON

The Massachusetts attorney general asked a judge Wednesday to strike down a federal gay marriage ban, arguing it interferes with the right of states to define marriage and have those marriages acknowledged by the federal government.

The challenge to the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act by Attorney General Martha Coakley's office was heard in federal court in Boston.

Assistant Attorney General Maura Healey argued states have historically had the right to define marriage.

She said the 1996 law could result in the denial of Medicaid and other benefits to married couples in Massachusetts, where same-sex unions have been legal since 2004.

A lawyer from the U.S. Justice Department, Christopher Hall, argued the federal government has the right to set eligibility requirements

for federal benefits — including requiring that those benefits only go to couples in marriages between a man and a woman.

Hall also pointed to instances where the federal government has regulated the definition of marriage in certain immigration cases.

It is the second time this month that a challenge to the federal law, also known as DOMA, has been heard in a federal court.

Earlier this month, gay rights groups launched their own challenge before the same judge, arguing the law unconstitutionally denies gay couples federal benefits available to other married couples.

An estimated 15,000 same-sex couples have been married in Massachusetts.

Healey argued the federal law not only intrudes on an area of core state sovereignty, but “forces Massachusetts to discriminate against its own citizens.”

“Never before has the federal



Mary Bonauto, attorney for Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, is surrounded by plaintiffs as she speaks outside the federal courthouse in Boston, Thursday, May 6, 2010, after opening arguments challenging the constitutionality of a federal law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

government told a married couple that they are married under state law but not under federal law,” Healey said, adding that states “have

always had exclusive control over defining and regulating marriage.”

Healey cited the case of a military veteran who has asked that he and his same-sex spouse be buried in a veterans' cemetery when they die, a privilege offered other married veterans. She said the state has decided to authorize the burial, even though it risks losing federal money for doing so.

“Why? Because it's the right thing to do,” she said. “We are now subject to forfeiture and loss of funds.”

Hall argued the law doesn't intrude on states' sovereignty because it doesn't bar them from legalizing same-sex marriages.

Hall also argued that by approving the 1996 marriage law, Congress didn't preclude revisiting the potentially divisive issue in the future when there might be more of a national consensus.

“Congress decided to freeze the status quo and let the democratic process work itself out at the state level,” he said.

Hall defended the federal government's right to set eligibility requirements for federal funds — noting that

federal highway funds must be spent on highways.

Under questioning from U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Tauro, however, Hall acknowledged the law sets a different marriage standard for state and federal governments.

Tauro also pressed Hall on the case of the veteran, asking if the federal government had an interest in “perpetuating heterosexuality in the graveyard.”

When Hall tried to argue that the state faced no immediate harm by authorizing the burial since the Obama administration opposes the law and is pushing for its repeal, Tauro pressed him on what constituted an immediate threat.

“Do you have to wait until the dirt from the shovel is in the grave?” Tauro said.

The judge also took issue with status quo argument, saying that preserving it in 1996 could have meant preserving the right of states to define marriage and have those marriages recognized by other states and the federal government.

Tauro hasn't indicated when he would rule on the challenges. □

Officials announce bust of major child porn ring

CHARLES WILSON

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— Federal prosecutors announced Wednesday that they had broken up a major online international child pornography ring that operated as a hierarchy and at its peak had more than 1,000 members trading millions of sexually explicit images.

More than 50 people have been arrested in several U.S. states since the 2008 start of the investigation, and authorities are seeking the extradition of several suspects from overseas, U.S. Attorney Tim Morrison said at a news conference. He was joined by immigration and postal officials, whose agencies took part in the investigation.

“This is the largest crimes against children case brought anywhere by anyone,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven D. DeBrotta said.

One suspect, 47-year-old Edward Oedewaldt, was detained April 23 in Arcadia, Louisiana, and was due in court Wednesday in Indianapolis to be charged. Oedewaldt's attorney, Howard Bergstein, declined to comment Wednesday.

DeBrotta said the government is seeking the

extradition of several suspects from abroad, although he didn't specify from which countries. Among them is the group's alleged ringleader, Delwin Savigar, who is serving a 14-year prison term in England for sexually assaulting three underage girls, he said.

DeBrotta said Savigar administered a password-protected website where members could access collections of sexual images — some including as many as a million files — share their fantasies about having sex with children and give advice each other about how to build their collections and avoid getting caught.

The group had about 1,000 members at its peak, and about 500 when U.S. officials took down the website in 2008, DeBrotta said. It was hierarchical, and higher-ranking members had more advanced privileges.

Group members generally knew each other only by their screen names, Morrison said.

The investigation was kept sealed for so long to avoid tipping off suspects. A rapid-response computer forensics team led by the Indiana State Police traced the groups' high-ranking members from one computer to the next, DeBrotta said. □

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UK gov't discloses size of its nuclear stockpile



Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague, makes a statement in the House of Commons on Britain's stockpile of nuclear warheads in this image taken from TV in London Wednesday May 26, 2010. Britain offered its first accounting of its nuclear arsenal Wednesday, revealing that it has a stockpile of 225 warheads in a move that offers transparency to non-nuclear states in hopes of winning stricter global controls on the spread of atomic weapons.

Associated Press

DANICA KIRKA
EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writers

LONDON (AP) — Britain offered its first public accounting of its nuclear arsenal Wednesday, disclosing that it has a stockpile of 225 warheads in a move that offers transparency to non-nuclear states in hope of winning stricter global controls on the spread of atomic weapons.

The announcement, made without fanfare in the House of Commons, follows the Obama administration's disclosure that the United States has stockpiled 5,113 nuclear warheads and "several thousand" more retired warheads awaiting the junk pile — the first public description of the secretive arsenal born in the Cold War and now shrinking rapidly.

The U.S. made the announcement at the May 3 opening of a five-year review of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, considered the cornerstone of global disarmament efforts, where Washington and its allies are seeking stronger measures to prevent the spread of nuclear arms. Britain made its announcement as the monthlong conference at the United Nations nears an end on Friday, with intense debate under way on a final document. "We believe that the time is now right to be more open about the weapons we hold," Foreign Secretary William Hague told the House of Commons. "We judge that this will assist in building a climate of trust between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states and contribute, therefore, to future efforts to

reduce the number of nuclear weapons worldwide."

Britain had earlier disclosed that it possessed 160 operational warheads, but Hague's comments that the country's "overall stockpile of nuclear warheads will not exceed 225 warheads" was the first time the maximum size of the total stockpile was revealed. The Foreign Office later said the 225 figure was the number of warheads the country now holds.

Countries that don't possess nuclear weapons have long demanded more openness from the nuclear-weapon states — the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China — about the size and nature of their arsenals as an essential step toward nuclear disarmament, which is a key plank in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Four other nations have or are suspected of having atomic arms — Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

British Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt told a briefing for U.N. reporters that Hague sent him to New York as the treaty review conference nears an end to emphasize the importance of the announcement in the House of Commons.

"We are very conscious that everything relating to nonproliferation depends on confidence, the confidence between those who are parties to the treaty, those who are nuclear weapon states and those who are not," Burt said. The new British government also is conscious that, over the last decade, the treaty had come under pressure with no outcome from the 2005 review conference, Burt said.

"We wanted to make an

immediate and positive contribution to that process," he said. For that reason, Burt said that Hague announced "two particularly strong confidence-building measures" — the maximum number of warheads in Britain's stockpile and a review of the government's policy on the use of weapons. On the nuclear arsenal, Burt said, "until this moment that number has always been kept secret."

"The foreign secretary has today revealed that number openly as part of our determination to be as open and transparent as a nuclear weapon-holding state in this process," he said.

Burt stressed that Britain holds only 1 percent of the world's stock of nuclear weapons and "the explosive power of Britain's stockpile has been reduced by something like 75 percent since the end of the Cold War."

On the policy review, he said, Britain's position has always been that "the use of nuclear weapons would only be in the most extreme circumstances of self defense following attack in certain particular circumstances."

Hague has now offered "a review and a discussion" of that policy, Burt said.

Asked whether Britain's decision to disclose its arsenal was made in consultation with the United States, he said the five nuclear powers continually talk to each other. Burt, part of the new coalition government that took power earlier this month, said Britain was encouraged by the U.S.-Russian agreement in April to further reduce their nuclear arsenals. □

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Officials say Israel will stop flotilla for Gaza

MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM(AP)—Israel's navy will stop a flotilla heading for Gaza with 10,000 tons of supplies and pro-Palestinian activists intent on breaking a three-year blockade of Gaza, officials said Wednesday, in the first definitive Israeli pledge to stop the boats.

The officials said if the flotilla of eight ships does not turn back, the boats will be hauled to an Israeli port, the activists sent back to their countries and the supplies transferred to Gaza by land. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity according to military rules. The flotilla is expected to approach Gaza over the weekend. Organizers say they are hauling supplies including building materials that are not allowed into the territory because of the blockade. Greta Berlin, one of the organizers, said the cargo ships are carrying cement, prefab homes, lumber, window frames, paper for printing school books, children's toys, a full dentist's office, electric wheelchairs and high-end medical equipment.

Among the passengers are lawmakers from a dozen European countries, a Holocaust survivor in her 80s, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a retired U.S. army colonel, Berlin said.

Israel and Egypt cordoned off the territory three years ago after the Islamic militant Hamas overran the territory. Despite the blockade, Israel allows in what it classifies as "humanitarian supplies" and claims there is no crisis of shortages in Gaza. Israel charges the flotilla is a propaganda exercise.

After letting a few boats reach Gaza, the Israelis have intercepted several since December 2008, following the same procedure the officials outlined in their plans for the current attempt. The officials indicated they were aware of the potential public relations

fiasco that would follow a violent confrontation on the high seas between heavily armed Israeli sailors and civilian activists, saying the navy commander instructed his forces to "operate with the utmost sensitivity and

not be drawn into needless provocations."

They said the boat crews would be warned several times as they approach Gaza, but Israeli forces would board them and take control if necessary. □



An Israeli security officer stands near deflated soccer balls to be transferred to the Gaza Strip in the Kerem Shalom crossing, at the Gaza Israeli border, Wednesday May 26, 2010.

Associated Press

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CLINTON

Continued from Front Page

South Korea, backed by the U.S., Japan and other allies, began implementing a package of punitive measures against the North on Tuesday — ranging from slashing trade, resuming propaganda warfare and barring the North's cargo ships. Those were seen as among the strongest it could implement short of military action.

"This was an unacceptable provocation by North Korea, and the international community has a responsibility and a duty to respond," Clinton told reporters in Seoul, the final leg of a three-nation Asian tour.

South Korea's measures "are absolutely appropriate and they have the full support of the United States."

Later Wednesday, North Korea again called the investigation results a "fabrication" and accused President Barack Obama's administration of being behind a plot to pinpoint the North as the culprit to bolster its military presence in the region.

"As a matter of fact, the Obama administration is straining the situation in a bid to beef up its forces in the region and tighten its military domination," the official Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary. It did not mention Clinton's trip.

North Korea, which has vowed to retaliate against any punishment for the ship sinking, has declared it is cutting relations with South Korea, starting "all-out counterattacks" against the South's psychological warfare operations and barring South Korean ships and airliners from passing through its territory.

On Wednesday, the North cut off some cross-border communication links and expelled eight South Korean government officials from a joint factory park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong.

The North's military also issued a statement warning it would "totally ban" the passage of South Korean personnel and vehicles to Kaesong if Seoul does not stop psychological warfare operations. It also said it would "blow up" any

propaganda loudspeakers South Korea installs at the border.

"We will never tolerate the slightest provocations of our enemies, and will answer to that with all-out war," Maj. Gen. Pak Chan Su, a Korean War veteran, said in Pyongyang, according to footage from APTN. "This is the firm standpoint of our People's Army."

Ordinary citizens also had harsh words for the South.

"The South Korean puppet authorities are raving like a mad man, linking the sinking of the Cheonan with us but the truth will be revealed," said Ri Gyong Dok, a Pyongyang resident. "We value inter-Korean relations, but the puppet authorities challenging and scheming for a war — this cannot be tolerated."

South Korea's military said there were no signs of unusual activity by North Korean troops. The North and South have technically remained at war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Despite the harsh rhetoric and threats, North Korea still allowed South Korean workers to cross the border to enter the Kaesong complex Wednesday. Another border crossing on the eastern side of the peninsula remained open, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

The North's statement Tuesday saying it would sever ties did not refer to the approximately 800 South Korean company managers and workers at Kaesong. Seoul excluded the complex — the last remaining major inter-Korean reconciliation project — from its retaliatory measures.

The North's threat to cut off access to the factory zone is seen as worrisome as it could potentially strand some of the South Koreans, who mostly commute to the facility, about an hour's drive from Seoul.

South Korea wants to bring North Korea before the U.N. Security Council over the sinking, and has U.S. support. The U.S. has said evidence of the North's culpability in the sinking is overwhelming, but key North Korean ally China has said it is still weighing evidence and has done little but urge calm on all sides.



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, left, speaks as South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan listens during a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Associated Press

"I believe that the Chinese understand the seriousness of this issue and are willing to listen to the concerns expressed by both South Korea and the United States," said Clinton, who visited China before coming to Seoul. "We expect to be working with China as we move forward in fashioning a response."

Senior U.S. officials speaking after strategic talks this week in Beijing predicted that China will gradually endorse the view that North Korea should be held accountable for the torpedo attack. They spoke

on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

The U.S. and South Korea are planning two major military exercises off the Korean peninsula in a display of force intended to deter future aggression by North Korea, the White House said. The U.S. has 28,500 troops in South Korea.

For Pyongyang, a strengthened U.S.-South Korea alliance following the sinking "must feel like a noose tightening around its neck," said Lee Sang-man, a professor at

Chung-Ang University in Seoul and an expert on the North.

Lee, however, said the ongoing tension will eventually be defused through resumed talks between the Koreans. He pointed to 1994, when former President Jimmy Carter visited Pyongyang and helped restore calm amid a crisis that erupted after North Korea said it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"Just when it felt like a war was about to break out, the two Koreas started talking again," he said. □

Peru indigenous leader detained on return home

CARLA SALAZAR

Associated Press Writer

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Indian leader Alberto Pizango was detained Wednesday upon arrival in Peru's capital from Nicaragua, where he fled 11 months ago to avoid charges over violent protests against proposed oil and gas exploration in the Amazon.

The protest leader was taken into custody at the airport and whisked to a police station. He was accompanied on the flight by U.S. actress Q'orianka Kilcher, whose father is a Peruvian Indian. Neither Pizango nor Kilcher spoke to the press.

Before leaving Nicaragua, which granted him political asylum, Pizango told state media that he had decided to return because "I think that I have waited too long and will make this enormous sacrifice that has cost me and is costing me so much."

Pizango fled to Nicaragua last July after Peruvian authorities charged him with sedition and rebellion for allegedly instigating

violence during protests the previous month in the jungle city of Bagua. The clashes killed 23 police officers and 10 civilians, according to government figures.

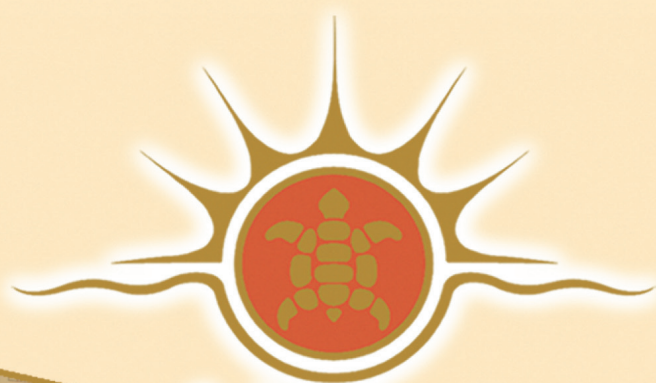
The violence erupted when police moved in to break up a road blockade manned by protesters opposed to decrees by President Alan Garcia's government designed to spur oil and gas exploration on indigenous ancestral lands.

On Wednesday, groups of Pizango's supporters and opponents gathered outside Lima's international airport to greet his arrival.

His supporters shouted "Garcia guilty! Pizango freedom!"

Opponents of Pizango accused the indigenous leader of instigating the violence and called for his prosecution.

"He must be held accountable for the deaths of our family members," said Ronnie Garcia, a relative of one of the policemen killed in Bagua. □



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Ex-dictator's party biggest bloc in Suriname vote

ARNY BELFOR

Associated Press Writer

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP) — Allies of former dictator Desi Bouterse have overtaken Suriname's governing coalition in parliamentary elections, positioning him to run for president despite a pending trial in the execution of 15 opponents in the 1980s. Bouterse, who previously was convicted by a Dutch court of drug trafficking, has declined to say whether he will seek the South American nation's top job — a process that would require alliances with other parties.

His Mega Combination coalition won 23 of the 51 seats in parliament to become the largest bloc, according to preliminary results released Wednesday.

Voters who remember Bouterse's leftist military regime in the 1980s as a time of economic instability and human rights abuses were startled by the outcome, despite pre-election polls favoring Bouterse's party.

"I was shocked, but now I say to myself and others, let it be," said retired insurance worker Frank Jong Ly.

"If people want this, then let them have it. But they will have to deal with the consequences when they come."

Suriname's president is chosen by a two-thirds vote in parliament. Since no faction has that share, the parties must negotiate to choose a new leader. The process could take as long as several weeks because lawmakers must first be sworn in and no date has been set.

Bouterse is chairman of the National Democratic Party, the largest opposition party, which held 15 seats in parliament before Tuesday's vote. He boosted his following, primarily among young and poor people, with populist promises for more jobs and affordable housing. Taxi driver Dennis Fernand, 36, said he was thrilled by the election results.

"Now the country will be run in such a way that it will benefit everyone living here," he said.

Bouterse, 64, expressed interest in the presidency in recent years, but he has not been clear about his intentions since the

campaign began.

"I'm not thinking about that right now. If it happens, we will see in the near future," Bouterse said as he cast his ballot Tuesday afternoon.

The governing New Front coalition won 14 seats. President Ronald Venetiaan, who was not seeking a third consecutive term in the top job, has said his party will not work with Bouterse's party as long as the former dictator is in control.

Observers with the Organization of American States said Tuesday's voting was peaceful and reported no irregularities.

Bouterse seized control of Suriname in 1980, five years after it gained independence from the Netherlands. He stepped down under international pressure in 1987, then briefly seized power again in 1990.

In 1999, he was convicted in a Dutch court of trafficking cocaine from Suriname to the Netherlands, but he has avoided an 11-year prison sentence because both countries prohibit extradition of each others' citizens.

Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen said



Suriname's opposition leader Desi Bouterse, center, arrives to vote at a polling station on a day of general elections in Paramaribo, Tuesday May 25, 2010.

Associated Press

Wednesday that the Netherlands respects the will of the electorate, but added that "the past can not be forgotten."

"Mr. Bouterse has been sentenced to an 11-year prison term in the Netherlands for drug dealing, and in Suriname a case about the murders of December 1982 is still proceeding. We cannot brush all that away," Verhagen said.

Bouterse and 11 others are standing trial on murder charges for the execution of 15 prominent political opponents in 1982. The trial is scheduled to resume

at a naval base outside Paramaribo in June. Bouterse has denied any involvement, but he accepted political responsibility in a 2007 public apology.

The U.S. State Department congratulated Suriname on what it said were peaceful, well-organized elections and noted the results are the first of several steps to determine the country's next leader.

"We do not think it is appropriate to comment further as Suriname's democratic process is continuing to unfold," spokeswoman Virginia Staab said. □

Elton John performance in Morocco raises outcry

By **HASSAN ALAOU**
and **ALFRED de**
MONTESQUIOU,
Associated Press Writers

RABAT, Morocco — A concert by Elton John is testing the limits of Morocco's drive for modernity, probing this Muslim nation's complex and ambiguous attitudes toward homosexuality like rarely before.

Islamists in the North African kingdom are outraged by the gay pop star's visit, while the royal palace, government and his many fans back his appearance Wednesday night. It's part of a tussle between conservatives and modernizers in a nation that criminalizes homosexuality but has long been famous for a swinging party scene. Morocco has attracted gay celebrities such as designer Yves Saint Laurent and writer Paul Bowles, and recently saw the launch of its first gay magazine.

Across the Islamic world, strictly hidden but sometimes

tacitly tolerated traditions of homosexuality are surfacing fitfully — and John's concert is the latest litmus test.

The public dispute between organizers for the Mawazine Festival that invited John and the Justice and Development Party, or PJD, Morocco's largest authorized Islamist group, illustrates the growing rift between Western-leaning Moroccan authorities and the more conservative Muslim movements that are on the rise in the kingdom.

"This singer is famous for his homosexual behavior and for advocating it," said Mustapha Ramid, a leader and spokesman for the PJD, the biggest opposition party with 40 lawmakers in parliament.

"We're a rather open party, but promoting homosexuality is completely unacceptable," Ramid told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. Ramid said homosexuality is against Muslim values, and he feared the British singer would

"encourage the phenomenon" and be a bad influence for Moroccan youth. Like nearly all Arab and Muslim countries, Morocco is officially hostile to homosexuality. Homosexual practices are a crime punishable by fines and prison sentences of six months to three years. In practice, however, such penalties are almost never applied, and Morocco has a long history of leniency toward homosexuality or other practices forbidden by Islam, like drinking alcohol.

Though most observers consider homosexuality common in the Arab world, most Arab countries frequently crack down on gays. Simply mentioning the topic is often taboo, and Morocco is viewed as an exception simply by allowing the public debate.

Moroccan officials dismissed the calls to ban John from performing.

"We deal with artists and intellectuals for what they do, without taking into account

Review: 'Prince of Persia' slips from memory

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE,**

As we await the eventual arrival of "Donkey Kong: The Musical!" — which surely must be coming someday, right? — yet another movie based on a video game, "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," arrives in theaters. Now as this genre goes, "Prince of Persia" doesn't have the shoddy appearance of, say, "Alone in the Dark" or "House of the Dead" or any number of films from the infamous German director Uwe Boll. No, this is a Jerry Bruckheimer production, so it looks cheesy in the kind of monster-budget way you can only achieve through copious amounts of computer-generated imagery. There's nothing terribly memorable about "Prince of Persia"; recalling the plot a half-hour afterward might require some effort. Somewhere beneath all the fake, glossy effects — which in no way suggest anything even remotely resembling a tangible reality



In this film publicity image released by Disney, Jake Gyllenhaal is shown in a scene from, 'Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time.'

(AP Photo/Disney, Andrew Cooper)

— there must be a story and characters and, you know, acting. Jake Gyllenhaal, as our courageous and resourceful hero Dastan, always has an engaging presence about him — those big, blue eyes, that goofy smile — and that sweetness helps keep the mood light when "Prince of Persia" threatens to take itself too seriously. Gyllenhaal has been to the gym, clearly, and he learned Parkour to perform some of his own stunts,

leaping across walls and over rooftops and camelbacks with the agility of, well, a video-game character. It may seem like a weird fit for an actor whose filmography includes "Brokeback Mountain," "The Good Girl" and "Donnie Darko," but perhaps because he's not a traditional action star, his performance ends up being more intriguing than what you might get from a Hugh Jackman or a Gerard Butler. □



Poster of British singer and composer Elton John in the street of Rabat, Morocco, Wednesday May 26, 2010. Elton John was expected to be the highlight of Morocco's biggest music festival Wednesday evening, despite calls by the country's main Islamist party to shelve the British singer because of his homosexuality.

(AP Photo/Abdeljalil Bounhar)

their private life," said El Hassan Neffali, an organizer of the Mawazine Festival. "Somebody's private life is one thing, and their art or creative activities are another."

The festival is under the patronage of King Mohammed VI — a powerful gesture in a country that remains an absolute monarchy and where the king, a descendant of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, is also "Amir al-Mumineen," or commander of the believers.

Moroccan officials acknowledge that they back the festival, along with dozens of others through the spring and summer, as a means to promote cultural diversity and openness in society. The cultural drive, along with new schools, housing projects and a vast program to reform the official teaching of Islam, is viewed as part of the king's broader plan to modernize society while offering an alternative to the Islamist groups that have become the country's biggest political force.

Abdellah Taia, a Moroccan writer and its most prominent

gay advocate, said that while Moroccan gays continue to suffer from abuse, the country is evolving faster than any other in the Arab world. He noted that even the official Le Matin newspaper, considered the mouthpiece for the royal palace, came out strongly in support of John's visit.

"Have we (Moroccans) become so intolerant that we refuse and fight differences, which are to humanity what seasons are to life?" Le Matin said in backing the concert.

Taia — who lives in France — said, however, "I just wish they'd extend the support they give Elton John to ordinary Moroccan gays."

A sign of Morocco's evolution, Taia said, is the creation of a new local word to describe homosexuality in Arabic: "Mithly," replacing the pejorative usual phrase of "an act against nature."

The first gay magazine in the Arab world, called Mithly, appeared last month in Morocco, although it is sold under the counter because it didn't get a distribution license. □



Stocks fade late as euro sinks; Dow ends under 10K

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – A drop in the euro set off a late-day slide in stocks Wednesday and sent the Dow Jones industrial average to its first close below 10,000 in nearly four months.

The Dow, up 135 points in morning trading, ended down about 69. It was the eighth drop for the Dow in 10 days. Wednesday's trading extended a streak of volatility since stocks went to their highest level of the year in late April. The late reversal underscored how jittery traders are about Europe. They are worried that heavy debt loads in European countries and more rounds of cost-cutting will hamper a recovery there, which

could spread quickly to other regions.

"We had a nice rally all day and we expected it to have had legs," said Phillip Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated investors in New York, which manages about \$400 billion. The sudden sell-off, he said, suggests "that investors are as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a roomful of rocking chairs."

The euro fell in late trading, pulling major stock indexes lower, following a Financial Times report that China is reviewing its holdings of European government bonds because of the crisis in government debt there.

China has been seeking ways to diversify its massive

foreign exchange holdings out of dollars for some time. However any indication that it was losing confidence in the euro, leading it to sell some portion of its European bond holdings, would deliver a major blow to the European currency.

The sliding euro has become a symbol of waning confidence in Europe's ability to contain its debt problems. The euro remains close to the four-year low it hit last week. It fell to \$1.2179 Wednesday.

"The inability of the market to hang on to the early gains today certainly does not send a very positive message," said Teddy Weisberg, a New York Stock Exchange floor trader with Seaport Securities. "It's



In this May 25, 2010 photo, traders Martin Durkin, left, and Jonathan Corpina confer on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Stock futures rose Wednesday as investors try to build momentum following a late-day rally during the previous trading session.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Economic gains may not mean votes for Democrats

By John Whitesides

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The U.S. economy has begun to rebound from a long recession, but Democrats could struggle to reap the rewards in November's congressional elections given persistently high unemployment and a gloomy voter mood.

Opinion polls show that Americans are still deeply worried about their jobs and finances despite recent signs of recovery, crimping Democratic hopes that an improved economic climate would help them retain control of Congress in November.

"Democrats are right when they say the economy is improving, but people just don't feel it," said Karlyn Bowman, who analyzes public opinion at the American Enterprise Institute think tank.

"It takes a long time for the public to sense change, and I think that's particularly true on something as close to people as employment or the economy," Bowman added.

President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats frequently tout the economy's gradual climb out of its worst recession in 70 years, noting it has recorded growth in three straight quarters and added jobs for four straight months.

But the national unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 9.9 percent, while Wall Street has been experiencing wild mood swings,

fueling broad economic uncertainty five months before the congressional elections.

And while consumer spending has been picking up pace, surveys of consumer confidence show sentiment still fragile.

Jobs and the economy top the list of worries by far in public opinion polls. An AP-Gfk/Roper poll this month found nearly two-thirds of Americans knew someone who had lost a job in the last six months.

A Quinnipiac University poll released on Wednesday found that 74 percent of Americans believe the country is still in recession, 50 percent disapprove of Obama's handling of the economy and more voters believe Obama's policies have hurt rather than helped their personal finances.

Economic concerns are the biggest factor in a sour public mood that has already sent some incumbents in both parties to defeat and fueled Republican hopes of regaining majorities in the House of Representatives and Senate.

'BAD TIMES'

"The folks on Wall Street and ... in D.C. may see an improving economy, but until unemployment begins to fall significantly, voters still think we're in bad times," said Quinnipiac University pollster Peter Brown.

"Until Americans stop thinking we're in a recession, the White House can't stop holding its breath," Brown added. □

a function of there being no confidence among investors." The Dow fell 69.30, or 0.7 percent, to 9,974.45. It was the first close below 10,000 since Feb. 8 when the Dow finished at 9,908.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.08, or 0.6 percent, to 1,067.95. The Nasdaq composite index closed down 15.07, or 0.7 percent, to 2,195.88.

About two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume came to 7.1 billion shares, compared with 7.4 billion traded Tuesday.

Treasury prices pared an early slide as investors late in the day went back in search of safe investments. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.19 percent from 3.16 percent late Tuesday. Crude oil rose \$2.76 to \$71.51 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gold rose. The stock slump at day's end marked an opposite to the pattern seen on Tuesday, when traders chipped away at a steep slide by the close and the major indexes ended little changed.

The slide in stocks has rattled investors still shaken by the market's plunge in late 2008

and early 2009.

"Everyone is so scared from what happened back in the big crash and now they're just all gun-shy," said Frank Ingarra, co-portfolio manager at Hennessy Funds.

Stocks were higher for most of the day after traders focused on economic news. Two reports from the Commerce Department offered the latest evidence that the U.S. economy is improving. Orders for big-ticket manufactured goods rose 2.9 percent last month. It was the biggest jump in three months and more than double the gain economists polled by Thomson Reuters had forecast.

U.S. manufacturing has been strong throughout the recovery. April's figures were boosted by a big rise in transportation orders. Excluding transportation, orders fell 1 percent.

The government also said that sales of new single-family homes rose 14.8 percent to an annual rate of 504,000 units after buyers raced to secure an expiring tax credit. That followed a 29.8 percent rise in March that was the biggest increase in 47 years. The latest gain was well ahead of estimates. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Playoffs

Reserves dominate Lakers, Suns win 115-106

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX – The Los Angeles Lakers were outnumbered and outplayed in the desert.

The Phoenix Suns got a decisive performance from their hustling bench to overcome Kobe Bryant's 38-point, 10-assist performance and beat the Lakers 115-106 in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday night.

A series that looked like a Lakers' breeze a week ago is all even at two apiece heading to Game 5 on Thursday night in Los Angeles.

The Suns reserves, considered an advantage entering the series but largely ineffective through three games, outscored their Lakers counterparts 54-20.

Channing Frye broke out of



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash greets Louis Amundson, Channing Frye, and Goran Dragic, of Slovenia, during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals against the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

a horrendous shooting slump to make four 3-pointers and score 14 points. Leandro Barbosa also had 14 on 6-of-8 shooting and Jared Dudley added 11 points. Goran Dragic ran the show at point and had eight points and eight assists in 18 minutes.

"The bench played fantastic," the Suns' Steve Nash said. "They were by far easily the difference tonight." Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 21 points. Nash, playing with a broken nose, made just 3-of-11 shots but had 15 points and eight assists.

But it was the backups who stole the show, making 20-of-32 shots, including 9-of-20 3s.

"They have a great bench," Bryant said.

Continued on Page 14

WNBA Roundup

Storm fights back to down Mystics

SEATTLE (AP) — Sue Bird and Tanisha Wright scored 16 points each as the Seattle Storm rallied from 10 points down in the second half to beat the Washington Mystics 82-76 in the WNBA on Tuesday.

Swin Cash and Lauren Jackson added 14 points each to help the Storm improve to 4-0 for the first time in franchise history.

For Washington, Monique Currie scored 24 points and Lindsey Harding had 15.

After trailing by 10 late in the third quarter, Seattle went on a 31-10 run to take a 72-61 lead with 3:11 to go.

The Mystics pulled back within three about 2 minutes later, but Bird made six free throws in the final 33 seconds to secure the Storm's win.

Mercury 110, Shock 96

In Tulsa, Diana Taurasi scored 35 points to lead defending champion Phoenix past Tulsa.



Phoenix Mercury guard Diana Taurasi is double-teamed by Tulsa Shock's Alexis Hornbuckle, left, and Amber Holt at the BOK Center, Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Taurasi scored 35 points and eight of the Mercury's 16 3-pointers in Phoenix's 110-96 victory over the Shock.

Associated Press

Penny Taylor added 29 while Candice DuPree had 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Mercury, who shot 45 percent

from the field, including 16 of 36 3-pointers. Taurasi sank 8 of 13 from beyond the arc and Taylor 6 of 12. □



People wait under umbrellas as the rain falls during a second round match between Switzerland's Roger Federer and Colombia's Alejandro Falla at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Associated Press *French Open*

Even Roger Federer needs advice, now and then

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Apparently, even Roger Federer, with his record 16 Grand Slam titles, was in need of some advice on a wet and windy Wednesday at the French Open.

Forced off court by two rain delays, and "pushed," as he put it, by a player with a career record below .500, Federer turned to Swiss Davis Cup captain Severin Luthi for words of wisdom during the breaks.

Continued on Page 15

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AL Roundup

Surging Red Sox overcomes Tampa Bay Rays 2-0

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — David Ortiz's two-run double was enough for the Boston Red Sox to beat the Tampa Bay Rays 2-0 on Tuesday in a clash of American League East pennant contenders.

Boston starter Jon Lester (5-2) pitched six scoreless innings, striking out nine and allowing only one runner past second. He is unbeaten in his past seven starts.

The victory was the seventh in eight games for the Red Sox, who are a season-best five games over .500 (26-21).

The Rays, who have baseball's best record at 32-14, lost a series at home for the first time since the opening week of the season. Tampa Bay starter James Shields (5-2) limited the Red Sox to four hits over eight innings.

Angels 8, Blue Jays 3

In Anaheim, Ervin Santana pitched a four-hitter for his second complete game against Toronto this season, steering Los Angeles to victory.

Santana (4-3) finished with 10 strikeouts, one off his career high, after getting staked to an early 5-0 lead.

Toronto's first three hits against him came on first-pitch homers by Jose Bautista, Aaron Hill and Jeremy Reed.

Mike Napoli homered for the Angels, while Bobby Abreu and Erick Aybar each had

two RBIs.

Blue Jays starter Ricky Romero (4-2) went 5 1-3 innings, giving up seven runs.

Rangers 8, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Vladimir Guerrero hit two two-run homers and drove in five runs for Texas in the win over Kansas City.

Guerrero is hitting .444 with five home runs and 12 RBIs against Kansas City this season. It was his 41st multihomer game and second this season, both against the Royals.

Guerrero homered in the first and fifth innings and added an RBI double in the seventh.

Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning off Royals starter Gil Meche, who gave up four home runs in the first five innings after yielding only three in his first eight starts.

The Royals tied it 6-6 with a three-run sixth.

Texas starter Darren O'Day (2-2) allowed one run in one inning to take the win. Rookie closer Neftali Feliz worked the ninth for his 13th save in 15 opportunities.

Brad Thompson (0-3), the second of five Kansas City pitchers, lost after giving up two runs without retiring a batter.

Mariners 5, Tigers 3

In Seattle, Milton Bradley homered and then drove in the go-ahead run in the

eighth inning to lift Seattle over Detroit.

Chone Figgins doubled off Justin Verlander (5-3) with one out in the eighth. Franklin Gutierrez, who had homered in the sixth to tie the game at 3, walked, and Bradley followed with a single.

Bradley's first inning homer was his first since April 13.

Seattle's Shawn Kelley (3-0) pitched the eighth for the win.

Orioles 5, Athletics 1

In Baltimore, Ty Wigginton and Adam Jones delivered successive sacrifice flies in the sixth inning to help Baltimore down Oakland.

Orioles starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-4) gave up one run in six innings.

Baltimore took a 3-1 lead against Tyson Ross (1-3) without benefit of a hit.

The defeat ended Oakland's three-game winning streak.

Indians 7, White Sox 3

In Cleveland, rookie Mitch Talbot outpitched former NL Cy Young winner Jake Peavy to help Cleveland beat Chicago.

Talbot (6-3) allowed two runs over seven innings. He took a shutout into the seventh before giving up four doubles.

Jason Donald and Shin-Soo Choo homered in the Indians' three-run third inning off Peavy (3-4). The Indians made it 6-0 with a three-run sixth off the White Sox starter.

Peavy gave up six runs over



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz doubles, knocking in two runs in the third inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Tuesday, May 25, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

six innings.

In other AL games it was, Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 3; Baltimore 5, Oakland 1; Boston 2, Tampa Bay 0;

Texas 8, Kansas City 7; Minnesota 0, N.Y. Yankees 0, 5 innings, susp., rain; L.A. Angels 8, Toronto 3; and Seattle 5, Detroit 3. □



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NL Roundup

Garland steers Padres to win over Cardinals



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Jon Garland pitches in the first inning against the St. Louis Cardinals in a baseball game Tuesday May 25, 2010 in San Diego.

Associated Press.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jon Garland pitched seven scoreless innings to steer the San Diego Padres to a 1-0 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League on Tuesday.

Garland (6-2) won his sixth straight decision, escaping a one-out, bases-loaded

situation in the first inning and getting two inning-ending double plays. He struck out seven as he lowered his ERA to 2.10.

Mike Adams and Heath Bell pitched one inning apiece to combine for San Diego's major-league leading ninth shutout. Bell picked up his

13th save in 15 opportunities. The sole run came when Jerry Hairston Jr. hit a homer off Adam Wainwright (6-3) in the second inning — his first homer this season. Wainwright took the loss despite allowing only that run in seven innings and tying his career best with 12 strikeouts.

Mets 8, Phillies 0

In New York, knuckleballer R.A. Dickey earned his first win since April 2009 as New York beat Philadelphia.

Two days after Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield tossed eight shutout innings to beat the Phillies, Dickey (1-0), called up from the minors, escaped bases-loaded jams in each of the first three innings. The 35-year-old pitched six shutout innings and struck out seven, matching his career high.

Jason Bay and Jeff Francoeur drove in two runs each for the Mets, who won their third straight, while Jose Reyes had three hits and scored three

times.

Phillies starter Jamie Moyer (5-4) took the loss.

Marlins 6, Braves 4

In Miami, Anibal Sanchez allowed two runs pitching into the seventh inning to steer Florida past Atlanta.

Sanchez (4-2) has won three straight starts for the first time since September 2006.

Cody Ross hit a two-run double in the three-run eighth for Florida while Cameron Maybin homered in the third inning.

Brian McCann hit a two-run double and Martin Prado had three hits for the Braves, who again struggled to give starter Kenshin Kawakami (0-7) run support. The Japanese is winless in nine starts this season, and hasn't won for 16 appearances.

Jason Heyward had a two-run single in the ninth, drawing Atlanta within two.

Cubs 3, Dodgers 0

In Chicago, Ryan Dempster threw eight scoreless innings as Chicago blanked Los Angeles.

Dempster (3-4) handed the Dodgers just their third loss in 15 games while earning his first win since April 23.

Derrek Lee homered and drove in all three runs for Chicago. Lee, who came in with a .218 average, had three hits.

He drove in Ryan Theriot with a single off Clayton Kershaw (4-3) in the sixth after Dodgers shortstop Rafael Furcal misfielded his grounder. Lee made it 3-0 in the eighth with a two-run shot — his sixth homer this season and 299th career — after Starlin Castro reached base on a throwing error by Furcal.

Pirates 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Pittsburgh's Ryan Doumit hit a solo homer with two outs in the top of the ninth inning to beat Cincinnati — his second game-deciding homer in three days. Doumit had the first game-ending homer of his career in Sunday's win over Atlanta. This time, he connected off Nick Masset (3-3).

Earlier, Cincinnati's Brandon Phillips tied it 1-1 in the eighth

with his 100th career homer off reliever Joel Hanrahan (1-0).

Pirates closer Octavio Dotel pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 12 tries.

Giants 4, Nationals 2

In San Francisco, pitcher Todd Wellemeyer singled and scored the go-ahead run to snap San Francisco's 24-inning scoreless drought as the Giants beat Washington and ended a season-worst five-game skid.

On the mound, Wellemeyer (3-4) allowed four hits in six innings to improve to 3-0 lifetime against the Nationals. He sparked the Giants' four-run fifth inning with a two-out single. Pablo Sandoval added an RBI double and Edgar Renteria singled in a run as San Francisco ended an 0-for-25 stretch with runners in scoring position.

Freddy Sanchez hit a two-run double for the Giants, who tagged former San Francisco pitcher Livan Hernandez (4-3) for a season-high seven hits in five innings.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Denver, Jhoulys Chacin pitched six solid innings to help Colorado edge Arizona. Chacin (3-2) allowed four hits and picked up his first home win of his career. Manuel Corpas struck out Mark Reynolds with a runner on second to end the game and pick up his fourth save.

Brad Hawpe and Troy Tulowitzki homered, while Todd Helton had three hits for the Rockies, who have won three straight.

Conor Jackson doubled in a run and scored another for the Diamondbacks.

Diamondbacks starter Ian Kennedy (3-3) gave up three runs in five innings.

In other NL games it was, Florida 6, Atlanta 4; N.Y. Mets 8, Philadelphia 0; Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 1; Chicago Cubs 3, L.A. Dodgers 0; Milwaukee 6, Houston 1; Colorado 3, Arizona 2; San Diego 1, St. Louis 0; and San Francisco 4, Washington 2. □

NBA PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 12

Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry kept all five reserves in the game for almost the first nine minutes of the final quarter, and they produced an 18-3 run, and the Lakers never recovered. When Nash re-entered with 3:05 to play, those subs — usually playing against the Los Angeles starters — had turned an 87-85 deficit into a 103-94 lead.

“We believe in those guys and they really believe in themselves,” Gentry said. “I thought they were much better defensively than they were offensively, and they were great offensively.”

Frye had made 1-of-21 shots in the series and missed 18 in a row when his second shot of the night, a 3-pointer, finally fell to the roar of the home crowd.

“I just set my feet and let it ride,” he said.

Pau Gasol managed just 15 points after getting 29 and 23 in the previous two contests. Lamar Odom also scored 15.

Jordan Farmar opened the

fourth quarter with a 3-pointer, his only basket in five shots all night, to give the Lakers an 87-85 lead. Barbosa responded with a 22-footer to tie it, then Lou Amundson scored inside on a pass from Dudley before Frye sank a 3-pointer for a 92-87 advantage.

That was the first of three consecutive 3s for Phoenix, the second by Barbosa and third by Dudley to make it 98-89. The biggest lead was 103-90 on Dragic's driving layup with 4:02 to play.

“We thought we could come in here and get a game, and unfortunately you know we weren't up to the task,” Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. “But we outscored them from the field I think both games, shot better than they did, did a lot of things very good and it still wasn't enough to win the game. They beat us at the foul line both nights, and that's the difference in the margin of the game.”

The Lakers had more field goals the Phoenix (45-41), but the Suns dominated at the foul line for the second game in a



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash shoots over Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, of Spain, during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Tuesday, May 25, 2010, in Phoenix. Associated Press

Associated Press

row, sinking 22 of 32 to Los Angeles' Lakers' 7 of 13.

Los Angeles was better against Phoenix's zone defense, if not great.

“Our attention needs to be on the defensive end — period,” Bryant said. “That's second-chance opportunities. Their bench came in and gave them a big boost in getting balls back and getting them extra possessions. We've got to cut that stuff out.” □



United States' Maurice Edu kicks the ball into the net past Czech Republic's Jan Polak, right, and Daniel Pudil, left, during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in East Hartford, Conn., Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

Czechs down U.S. 4-2 in friendly

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

EAST HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — The Czech Republic exposed the United States' defensive deficiencies time and again, taking advantage of sloppy play in a 4-2 victory Tuesday in the first of three World Cup warmup matches for the Americans. Maurice Edu opened the scoring in the 17th minute in front of a crowd of 36,218 at Rentschler Field, only to have the Czechs surge ahead with goals from Tomas Sivok in the 44th and Jan Polak in the 58th.

Second-half substitute Herculez Gomez equalized for the U.S. when he beat Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech in the 65th following a backheel pass by Brian Ching.

Martin Fenin put the Czechs ahead again when he beat backup U.S. keeper Brad Guzan in the 78th after Heath Pearce, Clarence Goodson and Steve Cherundolo failed to clear a ball in front of goal.

"A lot of energy at times. A little bit crazy," U.S. coach Bob Bradley said. "In the process of trying to put so much into it I think at times we left ourselves wide open."

Tomas Necid sealed the win in the 90th after Edu jumped and failed to clear a pass, giving Necid an open path to the goal.

The Czech Republic failed to qualify for the World Cup.

Bradley planned to cut seven players Wednesday and announce his final 23-man World Cup squad.

"We're all nervous," Gomez said, "anxiously awaiting Bob's decision." Next up is another warmup against Turkey in Philadelphia on Saturday, a day before the Americans leave for South Africa. Once there, the U.S. has a final friendly against Australia on June 5, one week before its World Cup opener against England. Gomez, DaMarcus Beasley and Stuart Holden had excellent games that appeared to boost their chances.

AC Milan defender Oguchi Onyewu played 65 minutes and struggled in his first match since knee surgery. Eddie Johnson was at forward for the first half and didn't do much.

"I didn't feel rusty at all," Onyewu said. "I don't think there was any moment in the game that the speed got over me. I think I neutralized their strikers and they didn't get anything on me."

Edson Buddle, making his second national team appearance and first in seven years, made some aggressive forays in the first half and spent nearly five minutes on the side getting treatment for a cut on his face. Edu, who became a regular for Glasgow Rangers by the end of the season, scored his first goal in 13 international appearances. Holden, playing just his second match since Nigel de Jong broke his right leg with a challenge in the March 3 friendly at the Netherlands, sent a free kick in from the near side. □

FRENCH OPEN

Continued from Page 12

Told to be more aggressive early, then to use more drop shots late, Federer wound up with a 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4 victory over Alejandro Falla in the second round.

"Those were good things he told me," said the top-ranked Federer, the French Open's defending champion for the first time. "Those little details make a crucial difference."

The defending women's champion, sixth-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, encountered quite a bit more trouble than Federer did — she faced four match points in the second set against 41st-ranked Andrea Petkovic and was so distraught she whacked herself in the leg with her racket.

Petkovic made matters easier with unforced groundstroke errors on all four of those chances to win, though, and Kuznetsova eventually came all the way back for a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory — but not before wasting three match points of her own.

"I'm not really sure what happened," Kuznetsova said. "I saw that she got tight."

Also into the third round was No. 2 Venus Williams, who walloped one serve at 128 mph in a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Arantxa Parra Santonja, then effortlessly volleyed aside a series of questions about her seemingly see-through dress in the postmatch news conference.

It's the same corset-like outfit — with a lacy, black overlay and bright red trim on the bodice — that Williams wore in her first-round match, and it's garnered more attention than her play so far.

Other winners included No. 3 Caroline Wozniacki, No. 14 Flavia Pennetta, No. 15 Aravane Rezai, No. 19 Nadia Petrova and Williams' next opponent, No. 26 Dominika Cibulkova, a semifinalist last year.

Like Federer, Kuznetsova discussed tactics with her coach during a 1½-hour rain delay, part of an odd day of stops and starts. After three days of sun and temperatures in the 80s, Wednesday's breezes reached 15 mph, the



Italy's Fabio Fognini, left, argues with an official regarding possible delay of the match, as France's Gael Monfils, right, looks on during their second round match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Wednesday, May 26, 2010 in Paris.

Associated Press

thermometer dipped into the low 60s, and intermittent showers disrupted the schedule and changed the way the clay played, slowing the surface. Some matches were postponed, and four in men's singles were stopped because of darkness, involving No. 4 Andy Murray, No. 13 Gael Monfils, No. 17 John Isner and No. 25 Marcos Baghdatis. Monfils' match against Fabio Fognini in the main stadium was halted at 5-all in the fifth set a few minutes before 10 p.m., but only after all manner of theater. At 4-all, there was a prolonged discussion with tournament referee Stefan Fransson about whether to suspend the match; Fognini didn't care for the decision to continue and kept arguing, which led to Monfils being awarded a free point. Then, with Monfils barely able to walk, let alone run, Fognini accrued three match points at 5-4, but failed to convert any,

and had more choice words for the chair umpire while packing up his equipment for the night.

Nothing quite so dramatic happened on that same court several hours earlier, when Federer met Falla, a left-hander ranked 70th who entered the day 11-13 at Grand Slams, 53-60 overall.

Here, then, is what passes for intrigue when Federer faces anyone other than Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros: Falla flicked a passing shot up the line to break serve and take a 6-5 lead in the first set.

Given a chance to serve out the set, Falla put a forehand into the net, sailed a backhand wide, watched Federer snap a volley winner, then sent a backhand long. And from 4-all in the tiebreaker, Federer took three points in a row, including an inside-out forehand winner that landed on a line to end a 12-stroke exchange. □

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The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, sea-

food and veggie categories.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Setar issues two scholarships for Aruban students



ORANJESTAD - The national telecommunication company Setar is sponsoring two scholarships for higher education abroad. The deal was reached yesterday between the Aruba Scholarship Foundation and Setar. The scholarships have each a value of US\$ 7,500 annually for a period of four years.

Page B6

Weekend wedding event held at Westin



Palm Beach - Bride Sharon Smid and groom Michael Engels chose Aruba as the island for their destination wedding, and the Westin Resort, Aruba, as the host resort for their 50 guests.

Page B10

SOUL BEACH® MUSIC FESTIVAL ARUBA MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

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Toni Braxton

Toni Braxton was born the oldest of five children in family of minister on October 7, 1967 in Severn, Maryland. Because her parents were very religious, Toni grew up singing in the choir at her father's

church. She was not allowed to wear pants until high school and forbidden to listen to secular music or watch shows such as Soul Train. Although she was forbidden to listen to secular music. Toni's fondest memories are of "sneaking to watch Soul Train whenever my parents weren't around. " It was these glimpses of secular music that influenced Toni's singing style. It also influenced her skills as a pianist and song writer. Toni graduated from Gien Burnie High School and went on to study teaching at Bowie State University before embarking on her musical career. Toni made her professional music debut in 1992, on the Boomerang soundtrack.

Continued on Pages B8 & 9

Parliament approves Aruba's 2010 budget



ORANJESTAD—Aruba's Finance Budget has been approved this week after a marathon meeting in Parliament. The 1.26 billion florins Finance Budget entails the sum that Government plans on spending, based on projected earnings for 2010. The budget was presented late. According to Aruba's laws, the budget for the coming year has to be presented to Parliament before September 1st, and has to be discussed and approved before the end of the year. Parliament members urged the new

Minister of Finance Mike de Meza to make sure the 2011 budget is submitted to the legislative body according to the law, and he gave his guarantee that will be the case. Along with the 2011 budget he also promised to include a multi annual plan for the duration of the new government.

The Minister outlined the challenges he encountered upon assuming power on November 1, 2009. He said the previous government left a deficit of over 700 million, despite having had major revenues.

De Meza rejected criticism from the MEP opposition party, who were in power for 8 years, yet were not able to bring the financial situation of Aruba under control. In fact, the new Finance Minister said the Mike Eman Cabinet inherited not only a financial debacle, but also a total lack of coherence in public and infrastructural administration.

Continued on Page 3



From Pennsylvania to Aruba

Shawn and Denton vow their love in matrimony



Aruba Today

By Angela Munzenhofer

TOWN HALL-On May 19, 2010 Shawn McCleary and Denton Stettler vowed their love in matrimony at Aruba historical Town Hall. The civil ceremony was delivered by registrar Betto Christiaans and witnessed by family and friends.

The lovebirds met at an online dating website seven years ago. At the time, Shawn, a Caseworker for the Commonwealth was living in Philadelphia and Denton, an Electrician, was residing in Lehigh County, PA. After almost two years of dating they made the decision to move in together to Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

They had vacationed in Aruba several times prior to Denton "popping the question" at the Manchebo Resort on the beach in June 2008. Denton had every intention of proposing

to Shawn during a sunset; however, Shawn always seemed to have something planned at that time. Denton eventually gave up and proposed on the beach at 9:30 a.m.

After they were engaged they knew right away that a "destination wedding" in Aruba was perfect. "We wanted our guests to be able to incorporate a wonderful vacation with the bonus of a beautiful civil ceremony in Oranjestad", stated Shawn and added "that is exactly everything we had hoped for".

The wedding was coordinated by Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba who did an outstanding job at creating exactly what the newlyweds wished for.

The reception was held at Matthews Beachside Restaurant along the pristine beach. Appetizers were

plentiful and the guests loved the casual ambiance.

Bella Aruba Photography was there to capture the 'Once in a Lifetime Moments' as the sunset behind the horizon. The newlyweds cut the wedding cake and toasted their love. Dinner followed and Karaoke

followed with this fun loving group.

Shawn & Denton send a special thanks to their guests who flew in from various parts of PA and made the wedding day one to always cherish. Congratulations from Lissy Lampe and Aruba Today. □



Loyal friends honored at the Paradise Beach Villas



Parliament approves Aruba's 2010 budget



Continued from Page B1

Parliament in its entirety agreed that the financial status of Aruba is serious, which is further exacerbated by the stress in the General Retirement Fund, the Public Employee Pension Fund and the General Medical Insurance. Legally, the government is responsible for coverage should these funds run into problems. Minister Mike de Meza said the possible solutions and even eventual measures will be discussed during the upcoming national/social dialogue with all social partners in Aruba. He also gave an update on the Settlement Agreement with Valero.

The agreement is subjected to Parliament approval and entails a new fiscal framework for the refinery. The new fiscal framework, according the Valero and the government could make it more attractive for Valero itself to re start its operations or to sell it to other companies. The settlement will also put an end to tax disputes between Valero and Aruba, whereby the island will receive a 200 million sum. Should the refinery reopen under Valero, the company commits a minimum of 10 million florins annually in profit taxes, and should another company take over, the minimum is 15 million florins. □



EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Paradise Beach Villas vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Paradise Beach Villas they call their home away from home. The following guest were honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba Carmine Galliccino and Patricia Seighious. Pictured are ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Bianca from the Paradise Beach Villas □



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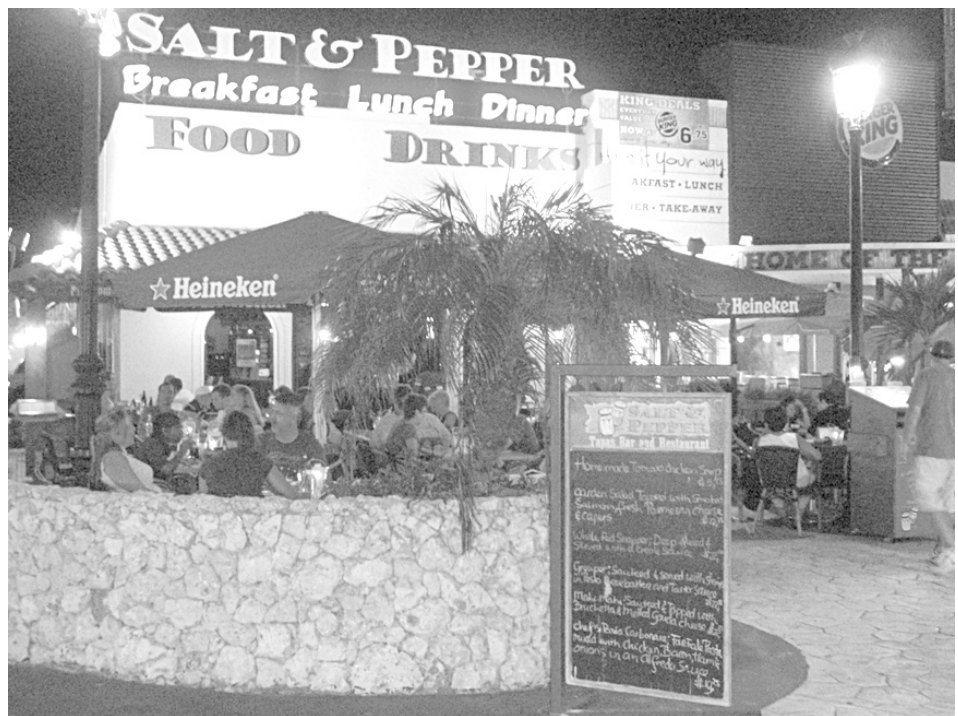
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Caribbean & USA tackle crime and security

WASHINGTON, DC – Caribbean nations and the United States begin talks Thursday aimed at forging a security cooperation arrangement to tackle criminal and security threats to the region.

The Inaugural Caribbean-United States Security Cooperation Dialogue will take place in Washington D.C., USA.

The initiative is in keeping with a commitment made by U.S. President Hon. Barack Obama at the 5th Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, to pursue a security partnership with the Caribbean through a Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

Since the Summit, CARICOM and U.S. officials have met jointly to define and develop the goals and scope of the CBSI, which has been rationalized as a “multi-year, multi-faceted effort by the US Government and Caribbean partners to develop a joint regional citizen safety strategy to tackle the full range of security and criminal threats to the Caribbean Basin.”

Discussions will take place under four broad priority areas namely: Substantially Reduce Illicit Trafficking; Advance Public Safety and Security; Promote Social Justice; and State Contributions.

Specific focus will be on strategies to improve the Region’s law enforcement

capacity to substantially reduce illicit trafficking associated with transnational crimes, and approaches to prevent crimes by focusing on youth and other vulnerable sections of the population. Chairman of the CARICOM Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE), Senator the Hon. Dr. Errol Cort of Antigua and Barbuda will lead the CARICOM delegation, while US Attorney General Hon. Eric Holder is among the Washington officials who will be in dialogue with the CARICOM delegation. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Arturo Valenzuela will conduct the opening ceremony on the US side and Secretary for Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has been invited to be part of the dialogue.

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Chairman of the CARICOM Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE), Senator the Hon. Dr. Errol Cort of Antigua and Barbuda will lead the CARICOM delegation, while US Attorney General Hon. Eric Holder is among the Washington officials who will be in dialogue with the CARICOM delegation.

Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Arturo Valenzuela will conduct the opening ceremony on the US side and Secretary for Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has been invited to be part of the dialogue. □



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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

In cooperation with the Aruba Scholarship Foundation

Setar issues two scholarships for Aruban students

Aiming for higher education abroad



ORANJESTAD - The national telecommunication company Setar is sponsoring two scholarships for higher education abroad. The deal was reached yesterday between the Aruba Scholarship Foundation and Setar. The scholarships have each a value of US\$ 7,500 annually for a period of four years.

Setar, according to its Director Roland Croes, has been actively promoting education, directly and indirectly, many times out of the view of the public. But it has also supported many other activities geared toward the general population, for instance Carnival, the Easter Egg hunt and more. However, with this scholarship program, Setar aims to much more than just marketing. The program is a substantial contribution to the upgrading of Arubans and thus the community in general.

The company is a long time contributor to the National Library, providing computers and also its DSL Internet service free of charge so students can make better use of digital information.

Schools also have received internet infrastructure at no costs, to enable teachers and students alike to make use of the internet for their learning. Setar will continue with this commitment, which not necessarily are used for marketing purposes, but are geared to help Aruba develop better on the area of education, sports and general knowledge of the public.

Mr. Clyde Harms of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation expressed his gratitude for the contribution of Setar, not just to the foundation, but more so as it is a great backing for the development of Aruba. The Foundation will administer the Setar scholarship program and will use the same criteria it has for granting scholarships for Aruban students who want to continue their higher education in the USA or in the region. Students who are granted the scholarship will have to maintain a high average score, if they want to keep the grant for the entire period of college. The scholarship is granted annually, meaning the student will have to apply annually



for the support, by giving an inside of the personal or family financial situation and also the grades of the previous year. "The scholarship is not granted automatically for the entire college period," Harms stressed.

In fact, the conditions to continue receiving scholarships from the ASF entail a minimum of 3.0 Grade Point Average, which is a B average. Moreover, the college and university has to be accredited.

The ASF has been adhering to this protocol since its inception now 20 years ago. Moreover, those who receive the scholarship will also have

to commit, by contract that they will return back to Aruba and work here for at least the length of period for which they received the financial backing. Should they prefer to remain abroad, then they will have to pay back the scholarship. Students applying for the Setar scholarship are not tied down to a particular study. There are limited study restrictions, according to the requirements set forth by the ASF, namely that the direction the applicants want to go is of relevance for Aruba. The scholarships are only for Aruban residents with the Dutch nationality, in order to ensure the money will benefit

the community on the long run. The reason for granting scholarship for higher learning in the region or the USA, instead of the Netherlands, is because the success rate is higher, according to Clyde Harms, who also expressed the desire for more companies to contribute with scholarships and thus, follow the example of Setar.

According to Setar Director Roland Croes, the company will allocate all information on the scholarship on a special website, which will also facilitate ASF that will be able to make use of the facility free of charge and administration.



Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater,

every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees, then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes! Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a

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What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

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TICKETS AVAILABLE: AT THEATER OF ILLUSIONS box office located in Westin lobby starting at 7:30pm nightly up until showtime, or at front desk at anytime

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$34.95 adults



triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba, and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a

collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □

SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kevin Hart



Kevin Hart (born July 3, 1980) is an American actor and comedian, originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After winning a few contests, he quit his job as a shoe salesman and embarked on a career in comedy. His performance in big shows has led him to be in feature films such as Paper Soldiers, Scary Movie 3, Along Came Polly, and Scary Movie 4.

Hart served as writer, co-executive producer and star of the 2004 ABC sitcom The Big House. In 2005 he won a Platinum Mic Viewers Choice Award at the BET Comedy Awards. He is also 5

feet 4 ½ inches tall. He has also starred in his own half-hour special on Comedy Central. In 2005, his daughter Heaven Lee (as in Heavenly) Hart was born. As revealed on the commentary for The 40-Year-Old Virgin, he half-jokingly commented that he doesn't want her to "become a stripper." On October 8, 2007, Hendrix Hart, a son, was born. He was recently in the "Get Buck in Here" video. He recently appeared on an episode of Nick Cannon's Wild 'n' Out. In addition, he also did a stand up titled "I'm a Grown Little Man".

He also starred in the movie Soul Plane which is a comedy motion picture from MGM, released in the United States on May 28, 2004. The film stars Hart, Method Man, Tom Arnold, D.L. Hughley, Mo'Nique, K.D. Aubert, Godfrey, and Snoop Dogg. Hart played the character of a man who had a bad experience on a plane and now started his own airline.

Kevin Hart is a member of the cast of the Comedy Central show Kröd Mändoon and the Flaming Sword of Fire, which premiered April 9, 2009. He plays the role of Zazelryck, a second-rate stage magician masquerading as a powerful warlock whose greatest magical gift is spinning a line.

In 2008, Hart was featured in Three 6 Mafia's music video for "Lolli Lolli (Pop That Body)" off of Three 6 Mafia's 2008 album, Last 2 Walk.

He also played Bigg Bunny in Fool's Gold.

In 2009, Hart appeared in an eBay commercial. □

Mark Curry

Mark G. Curry (born June 1, 1961) is an American actor and comedian. He is best known as the star of the ABC sitcom Hangin' with Mr. Cooper, and as one of the various hosts of the syndicated series It's Showtime at the Apollo.

Curry was born in Oakland, California. He attended St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda, California and California State University, Hayward.

On April 17, 2006, an aerosol can that had fallen behind Curry's water heater exploded and Curry, who was doing laundry at the time, was burned on over 18% of his body, including his arm, back and side. He spent many months recuperating at his home. According to an Associated Press interview posted on CNN.com on February 17, 2007,[1] Curry considered suicide after waking from a three-day, medically-induced coma, reportedly hoarding pain medication. After talking with comedian friends who made him laugh, such as Sinbad and Bill Cosby, he decided against suicide. He went on The Montel Williams Show to discuss this issue.[citation needed]

[edit] Career

Curry's first role was in the film Talkin' Dirty After Dark, alongside Martin Lawrence.

Curry's first major role was on television series



Hangin' with Mr. Cooper, where he played the lead role of Mark Cooper, an NBA player-turned-substitute teacher/gym coach.

Curry appeared two episodes of The Jamie Foxx Show as an eccentric driving instructor. In addition, he also had guest starring roles on television series Living Single (1994) and Martin (1997), and minor roles in the films Switchback and Armageddon.

In 2000, Curry also had a recurring role on The Drew Carey Show as Drew's boss at Winfred-Louder. □

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Kevin Hart



Chris Spencer



Mark Curry

Saturday, May 29, 2010 MUSIC CONCERT

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Mary J. Blige



Raheem DeVaughn

Sunday, May 30, 2010 MUSIC CONCERT

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Toni Braxton



Joe Thomas



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TONI BRAXTON

Continued from Page B1

Her contribution was entitled "Give U My Heart", a duet with producer/recording artist Babyface. The songs' multi-platinum success was the start of a chart-topping career. Toni's self-topping debut album has won three Grammi Awards, three American Awards, three American music Awards and two Soul Train Awards. Her debut album "Toni Braxton" also contained two #1 Gold singles, and was platinum 9 times.

At the beginning of 1995 after a hectic schedule of appearances and performances, Toni began work on her sophomore album. Her best turned out to be "Secrets", an album that allows the listener the opportunity to witness Toni in an array of musical moods and settings. Babyface's "There's No Me without You" one of her personal favorites, has a simple, plaintive acoustic feel. "Why should I Care" has an old school '70's flavor, while R. Kelly's "I Don't Want To" offers a broody lyrical response to Toni's 1994 hit, "Just Another Sad Love Song".

Confirmation that her first album was just the beginning of what promises to be a long-term career filled with accomplishment, "Secrets" is a glowing testament to Toni Braxton's status as one of the decade's most vibrant, exciting, soul deep, straight from the heart young artists. □

Weekend wedding event held at Westin



Palm Beach - Bride Sharon Smid and groom Michael Engels chose Aruba as the island for their destination wedding, and the Westin Resort, Aruba, as the host resort for their 50 guests. The team of wedding and event planners at the Westin are seasoned at making dream destination weddings a reality, and this past weekend's festivities were no exception.

The wedding events were kicked off on Friday evening with a poolside rehearsal dinner with live guitar music and a buffet feast prepared by the resort's award-winning culinary team.

On Saturday afternoon, a picturesque, toes-in-the-sand wedding ceremony was held on the shores of Palm Beach just in front of the resort. Following the exchange of vows, a sunset cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception was held, followed by dinner at the Sea Breeze Terrace that included a plated dinner of salad Caprese, filet mignon, lobster tail, and a decadent chocolate bouchon for dessert. After dinner, a live band had the wedding party dancing all night long. □



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HUMAN HINTS

You Won't Find Completion in Separation

When we want three dimensional things to fulfill us, we seek validation from an illusion. We search outside of ourselves for something that is separate from us, in an attempt to find completion. In this way, acquiring or wanting something drives us away from ourselves, and takes us further from our goal of self-completion.

We also reach outside of ourselves when we think a certain situation will make us happy. The idea is to be happy and complete before the situation occurs. Become complete inside, and your external world will reflect your inner fulfillment.

This is not to say that you can't have three dimensional belongings.

It can be a lot of fun to be an enlightened millionaire. What makes the difference is your attitude toward your stuff, your reason for having it.

Do your possessions define you or do you define them?

If everything you own went up in flames today, would you feel loss or an opportunity to grow and redefine yourself? You let go of the past by focusing on your future.

Our three dimensional possessions consume our energy. Everything we own takes up a piece of our Life Force.

The percentage of our energy held by any given three dimensional thing depends on how emotionally attached to it we are. The more attached we are to our stuff, the more we are using it to define us. It is alright to have things, just don't become emotionally attached to physical things. When we seek validation and definition in the three dimensional world, we enforce the illusion of separation.

When you look for completion outside of yourself, you become more separate, less complete. When you rely on an external force, whether it's a person, a situation or a thing, you give away your personal power.

When you connect your emotions to something you cannot control, you become vulnerable and you give away your sovereignty. You are giving your power to the idea of an illusion.

When you find completion inside yourself, you empower your personal foundation. When you know yourself, you will remain calm and

centered when the Winds of Change blow through this three dimensional illusion.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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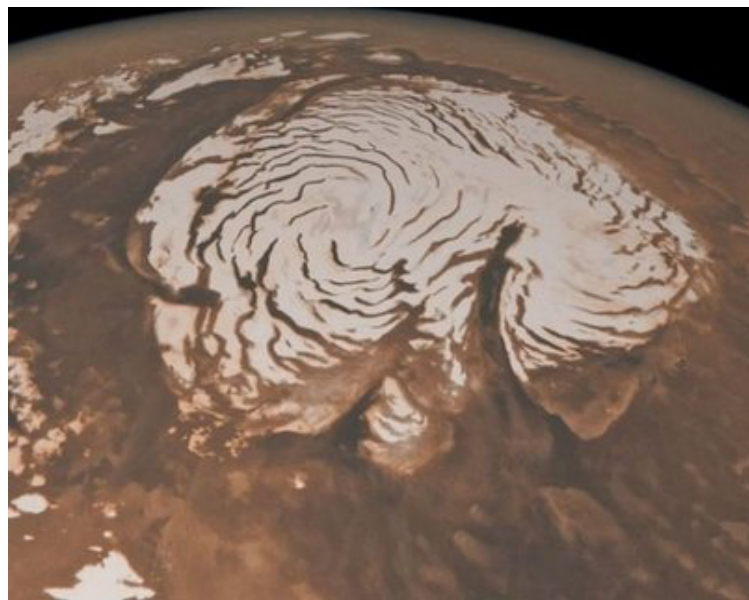


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Mystery Spirals on Mars Finally Explained



An undated handout photo of a view of the north polar region of Mars from orbit. Astronomers on Wednesday said they could explain a nearly four-decade-old enigma surrounding rugged troughs and a chasm in the northern ice cap of Mars that could comfortably house the Grand Canyon.

Jeremy Hsu

Huge troughs curving outward from the north pole of Mars like the arms of a pinwheel were not carved into the polar ice caps by some mysterious force, researchers have discovered. Instead, the shifting pattern arose from a long process of formation and erosion that gave it the appearance of slowly moving and spiraling inward over time.

A similarly snail-like process gave rise to the Chasma Boreale canyon that cuts into the side of the giant pinwheel

pattern, known as the north polar layered deposits (NPLD). The unveiling of the origins of the canyon and NPLD came courtesy of ground-penetrating radar carried by two Mars orbiters.

Scientists had previously favored the idea that a natural force recently carved both the canyon and pinwheel pattern into older geological deposits. But they could not test their theories beyond what they could see on the Martian surface, as if trying to judge a book by its cover.

"Radar is like opening the

book; we can read each page now," said Isaac Smith, a planetary scientist at the University of Texas Austin. "People were looking at the outside and thinking they knew what the book was about, but they didn't."

Such technology allowed scientists to take 2-D cross-section images of the troughs and reveal the layers within the walls, like snapshots in time going back through the red planet's history. Radar also helped trace reflective markers that followed the geometry of underground structures to build up a 3-D sense of the layers.

The radar studies do not answer the riddle of what changes in the Martian atmosphere spurred the formation of both the canyon and the younger spiraling troughs. But they do give scientists a new understanding of the timing of the processes that allow the wind and sun to shape the Martian surface over a certain period, and that may lead to more evidence-based climate models for the red planet.

Not built in a day

The Chasma Boreale appears to cut into the side of the ice-rich polar layered deposits which sprawl across 621 miles (1000 kilometers) and are about 1.2

miles (2 kilometers) thick. But the radar studies showed that the massive canyon formed long before the appearance of the shallower troughs which make up the spiraling arms.

Some researchers had suggested that pressure-induced melting or sub-ice volcanic activity caused the canyon to appear. Yet the canyon's birth turned out to result more from the slow workings of climate and time, rather than rapid or catastrophic forces.

"There were many hypotheses about the Chasma Boreale, and all assumed it was a recent feature cut into the polar ice," said Jack Holt, a geophysicist at the University of Texas, Austin. "But now we know it's an old feature, and you can interpret the stratigraphy in that context."

Holt led the radar study on the Chasma Boreale, while his colleague Smith focused on the spiral troughs. Their two studies appear in the May 27 issue of the journal Nature.

Both the Chasma Boreale and the younger troughs formed on top of an older polar ice cap. Layers of water-ice and grit began depositing, and soon an early form of the canyon appeared. But it wasn't alone; a similarly-sized canyon also

began to take shape.

Then something in the Martian climate caused the deposits to stop. Erosion then took over, as the wind wore at the surface and the sun caused some ice to sublimate and turn directly into vapor. There was no evidence of water melt from the radar studies, Holt told SPACE.com.

Eventually the layers began depositing again on top of one another, and one of the canyons ended up getting filled in. But natural forces such as the wind somehow spared the Chasma Boreale by preventing deposits from filling it, and helped preserve the canyon that today stretches 311 miles (500 kilometers) long and 62 miles (100 kilometers) wide.

"The [canyon formation] happened for some time with no good age constraints," Holt said. "That was about 75 percent of the way through the history of this, but then the troughs started forming. We don't know why."

Picking up good migrations The younger, shallower troughs began to form sometime between 2.49 million years and 467,000 years ago. They represented depressions on top of about three quarters of built-up polar layered deposits, but they didn't just sit still. □

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Candidato Partido Verde Colombia defiende fumigación de cocales

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - El candidato a la presidencia de Colombia por el Partido Verde, Antanas Mockus, anunció el miércoles que en su eventual Gobierno continuará con las fumigaciones aéreas con químicos de los cultivos de hoja de coca, la materia prima de la cocaína.

Colombia es considerado como el primer productor mundial de cocaína con alrededor de 400 toneladas anuales y en la actualidad existen más de 68.000 hectáreas cultivadas con hoja de coca en zonas selváticas y montañosas.

“El narcotráfico es tan grave en Colombia, causa tantas muertes, que no combatirlo sería irresponsable”, dijo Mockus en una conferencia de prensa con corresponsales internacionales.

El candidato, quien se encuentra en un empate técnico con el oficialista del Partido de la U, Juan Manuel Santos, en las encuestas sobre intención de voto para las elecciones presidenciales del 30 de mayo, fue cuestionado por su

posición de fumigar cuando a nivel internacional los verdes defienden el medioambiente.

De acuerdo con grupos ambientalistas, las fumigaciones de los cocales con químicos causan graves daños a la flora y la fauna e incluso a la salud del hombre. “Hasta donde sea posible la erradicación manual, que no corran peligro la vida de los erradicadores por gente que le dispara, se preferirá la erradicación manual, pero el Estado no renuncia a una de sus herramientas”, sostuvo Mockus. La fumigación ha sido una de las herramientas más efectivas para combatir los cultivos de hoja de coca en Colombia y ha contado con la ayuda de Estados Unidos que desde el año 2000 ha entregado a Bogotá más de 6.000 millones de dólares para programas antidrogas y de asistencia social.

En los últimos ocho años fueron fumigadas en Colombia 1,1 millones de hectáreas, incluidas 104.772 en el 2009. Entre el 2002 y el 2009 se

erradicaron en forma manual 310.337 hectáreas, incluidas 60.954 el año pasado.

PELIGROSA ERRADICACION MANUAL

Los frecuentes ataques de francotiradores de la guerrilla izquierdista y las trampas con minas y bombas contra personas que cumplen las labores de erradicación manual han impedido aumentar este método para sustituir la fumigación aérea que es más segura, de acuerdo con fuentes de seguridad.

“En la medida en que se vaya resolviendo (la inseguridad contra los erradicadores), será facilísimo renunciar a la fumigación, pero cuando el problema esté ya en estado avanzado de solución”, aseguró Mockus, un matemático y filósofo de origen lituano de 58 años.

El narcotráfico es considerado como el combustible que alimenta el conflicto interno de más de 45 años que se registra en el país sudamericano y que cobra miles de vidas al año.

Las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), cárteles de narcotraficantes y grupos conformados por antiguos paramilitares de ultraderecha están vinculados con la



El candidato a la presidencia de Colombia por el Partido Verde, Antanas Mockus, habla durante una conferencia de prensa en Bogotá. Mayo 26 2010. REUTERS/Jose Miguel Gomez

producción y el tráfico de cocaína, según la Policía Nacional. Mockus también se refirió a las ejecuciones extrajudiciales cometidas por efectivos del Ejército que reclutaban jóvenes, a quienes luego mataban y

presentaban como miembros de grupos ilegales muertos en combate, y descartó cualquier responsabilidad penal del presidente Alvaro Uribe y de Santos, su principal rival y antiguo ministro de Defensa.

ONU pide a Colombia

Prohibir matrimonios de menores de edad

GINEBRA (AFP) - Colombia debe aumentar la edad legal de casamiento, llevándola de 14 años a 18, en sintonía con las normas internacionales, recomendó el Comité de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales de la ONU, en una resolución difundida este miércoles en Ginebra. “El Comité alienta (a Colombia) a aplicar la edad legal mínima para contraer matrimonio, de 18 años para las niñas y los niños, de conformidad con las normas internacionales”, indicó el documento.

El Comité constata que en Colombia “está permitido que los niños se casen a los 14 años con el consentimiento de un padre o tutor”, agregó la resolución.

Esa norma tiene “un impacto negativo en el disfrute por los niños de sus derechos económicos, sociales y culturales, en particular los derechos a la salud y a la educación”, señaló el documento. Integrado por 18 expertos independientes, encargados de vigilar que los Estados respeten el Pacto de la ONU en materia de derechos económicos, sociales y culturales, el Comité le pide también a Colombia que “le facilite información detallada sobre la magnitud de este fenómeno”. □

Lula envía carta a líderes EEUU, Francia y Rusia por caso Irán

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - El presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva envió una carta a los líderes de Estados Unidos, Francia y Rusia para pedirles que apoyen el acuerdo de canje nuclear iraní pactado por Brasil y Turquía.

La oficina de prensa del ministerio brasileño de Relaciones Exteriores confirmó miércoles que la misiva fue enviada el martes a los gobernantes Nicolas Sarkozy, de Francia, y Dimitri Medvedev, de Rusia, en el que los insta a dar su respaldo al compromiso iraní.

El lunes fue enviada una carta con un contenido similar al estadounidense Barack Obama. El acuerdo alcanzado el 7 de mayo en Teherán prevé el canje de 1.200 kilos de uranio levemente enriquecido por mineral enriquecido

a un nivel más alto para abastecer una planta eléctrica e industrias farmacéuticas en Irán.

Autoridades iraníes dirigieron el lunes una carta a la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica (AIEA) con los detalles de sus compromisos asumidos en la declaración de Teherán.

Lula consideró en la carta enviada a sus colegas que, si el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU da una respuesta positiva a los compromisos iraníes, se crearía “un círculo virtuoso para nuevas conversaciones”, explicó el ministro brasileño de Relaciones Exteriores, Celso Amorim, la noche del martes en Argentina.

Amorim acompañó a Lula el martes en Buenos Aires en las conmemoraciones del bicentenario de la independencia de Argentina. □



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